

REMARKS

The office action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and amendments have been made to the claims to emphasize pre-existing differences and to more clearly describe the invention as claimed.

With regard to the examiner's rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, applicant, by and through the undersigned, has amended this claim in the manner suggested by the examiner. As a result, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The examiner has also rejected claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-17, 19-20 and 24-25 as being anticipated by Li et al. (hereinafter "Li").

Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 24 and 25 to more accurately define the subject matter of these claims. In so doing, it is believed that the claims have not been narrowed in their scope in any significant respect, the changes merely clarifying the functionality and structure. It is also believed that claims 1, 9, 24 and 25 are neither anticipated, taught nor suggested by Li, applied singularly or in combination with any of the other patents of record. It is clear that Li does not operate in a manner that even resembles the subject matter of these independent claims.

The examiner's comments made with regard to the application of Li in the rejection of these claims mischaracterizes the teachings of Li and ignores significant claim language of the subject claims. The manner in which the Li configuration system works is clearly stated in the patent. The abstract indicates that an unconfigured internet access device is shipped directly to a customer without having to be manually configured. The customer enters a registration identification number and a telephone number into the internet access device. The internet access device then automatically connects to the internet, downloads configuration data from a configuration server containing customer site specific configuration data and then automatically configures itself for communication with the internet.

This is also consistent with language identified by the examiner at column 12, lines 43-48: "Once connected to an ISP, the internet access device is then able to automatically locate a configuration server, request the unique configuration record for that internet access device, download that configuration record and then automatically configure itself for communication with the internet using the configuration record." The examiner also specifically identified a portion of Li's claim 1 which states "downloading said configuration record from said configuration server to said access device". The summary of the invention contains similar and consistent descriptions of the operation.

An important aspect of Li is the fact that there is a configuration server from which configuration data is downloaded to a device. It is a single server that provides such configuration data. This is far different from what is claimed in claim 1 for example, which states that there is a first device which may or may not be a server, hub, router, client or switch and which is unconfigured and connected to the network and a second device that may or may not be a server, hub, router, client or switch and which is configured and connected to the network, wherein the second device sends over the network at least a portion of its configuration information, wherein a portion of said configuration information of said second device is used by said first device to create its own configuration information.

Li simply does not operate in the manner as claimed. In Li, the configuration information always comes from the configuration server and the configuration record is downloaded to the device. Li does not teach or suggest devices such as hubs, routers, clients, and switches, which can be devices other than a configuration server sending a portion (or more) of its configuration information, the portion being used by an unconfigured device to create its own configuration information.

As stated in the summary of the invention at page 4, the present invention can have servers, hubs, routers, switches as well as other client computers send a portion of configuration information which minimizes the interaction by the

user or system administrator and also the need for specialized software service for the configuration server. In the present invention a configured device sends back information to the unconfigured device about the network environment. The unconfigured device uses this information about the network environment to create its own IP address.

The amended claims 9, 23, 24 and 25 have been similarly amended and the arguments that have been made with regard to claim 1 also apply to these claims. Because the dependent claims necessarily include the features of the claims from which they depend and in addition define other features and functionality not found in those claims, it is also believed that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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